



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 07 December 2006

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)

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Daily Highlights

- The Missouri Public Service Commission is frustrated that more hasn't been done to prevent widespread outages, since about 99,100 Ameren Corp. customers are still without power in Missouri and Illinois after last week's ice storm. (See item [1](#))
- The New York Times reports the investigation into an outbreak of food poisoning that has sickened 65 people in three states has widened after four additional cases of E. coli infection were reported in Pennsylvania as well as two more in New Jersey. (See item [21](#))
- Police in St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin, have called in a federal postal inspector and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms to look into eight cases of explosives found in residents' mailboxes along a four-mile stretch of River Road in Polk County. (See item [43](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *December 06, Associated Press* — **Missouri utility criticized for storm outage.** Though power has been restored to most areas hardest hit by the first winter storm of the season, Missouri's utility regulators are frustrated that more hasn't been done to prevent widespread outages. About 99,100 Ameren Corp. customers were still without power Wednesday,

December 6, in Missouri and Illinois, the St. Louis–based utility company, Ameren Corp. reported. Ameren predicted that service for most customers would be restored by Wednesday night, but it said homes and businesses in some rural areas could be without power until Friday. Frustrations with the prolonged outage prompted the Missouri Public Service Commission to summon Ameren's chief operating officer to a meeting Tuesday. Commissioners weren't satisfied with Executive Vice President Thomas Voss' explanation that the ice storm was the worst to hit the St. Louis since December 31, 1978, and that most of the damage was caused by trees rooted on private property. Commission chairman Jeff Davis, noted it was Ameren's fourth major, prolonged outage in three years. Davis and other commissioners demanded Ameren come up with suggestions to prevent such widespread blackouts — be it buried power lines, stronger lines or expanded legal authority to trim trees.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/12/06/AR2006120600329.html>

2. *December 05, United Press International* — **New production technique could double U.S. oil reserves.** The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Fossil Energy says an experimental oil production method was a success and could double U.S. oil reserves. Tulsa, OK–based Grand Resources Inc. used DOE funding to revitalize two abandoned fields on the tribal lands of the Osage Indian nation, which are now averaging 103 barrels a day. The three–year–old pilot program has produced 6,000 barrels so far, using a new technique of horizontal wall waterflooding. In horizontal drilling, a vertical borehole is drilled first, then kicked off at a roughly 90–degree angle through an underground formation, a DOE press release states. The release also said if the technology is brought to market, it could reinvigorate thousands of old oil fields while it could double the 218 billion barrels the United States currently holds in crude reserves. DOE Press Release:

http://www.netl.doe.gov/publications/press/2006/06069–Native_American_Oilfield_Revived.html

Source: <http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/11834.html>

3. *December 04, Journal News (NY)* — **Indian Point nuclear plant emergency phones back up after outage.** The emergency telephone system used by Indian Point Energy Center (Buchanan, NY), officials to quickly notify state and local authorities about problems at the nuclear plant was off line for a period of time Monday morning, December 4. Jim Steets, a spokesperson for Entergy Nuclear Northeast, the company that owns Indian Point, said the Radiological Emergency Communication System (RECs) was inoperative but stressed that the outage did not pose any significant safety problems for local communities. "It is a dedicated phone system set up to communicate in a radiological emergency," Steets said. "It is a phone line. So they would just go to a normal telephone system if we had to make a call." Susan Tolchin, chief adviser to Westchester County Executive Andrew Spano, said the system was back operating by the afternoon but said the outage was worrisome. "They would have had to have called everybody on a normal phone line," Tolchin said. "It is not a good thing when the RECs line is not working."

Source: <http://www.thejournalnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061204/NEWS02/612040375/1025/NEWS09>

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

4. *December 06, Associated Press* — **One confirmed dead after factory blast in Milwaukee.**

An explosion that may have started in a large propane tank rocked an industrial complex near downtown Milwaukee Wednesday morning, December 6, killing at least one person. At least 25 were injured and one person was missing. The explosion ignited a fire at a Falk Corp. warehouse near the Potawatomi casino and about a half mile from Miller Park, where the Milwaukee Brewers play. Falk employee David L. Mays, 61, said the company began to evacuate workers Wednesday morning after a leak occurred in one of six large propane tanks behind a building workers call the annex. The explosion destroyed Falk's wood frame warehouse and numerous cars and damaged several other buildings in the complex. The fire spread through rubble covering several blocks. Construction crews working on buildings in the surrounding area were sent home by their companies because of concern about smoke from the spreading fire.

Source: <http://www.myfoxdelta.com/myfox/pages/News/Detail?contentId=1702648&version=1&locale=EN-US&layoutCode=TSTY&pageId=3.3.1>

5. *December 06, Morning Sun (KS)* — **Gasoline spill in Kansas forces street closure, evacuations.** A hazardous spill caused street closures in Arma, KS, Tuesday night, December 5. East Washington Street — from First to Third Street — and Second Street — from Main Street to South Street — were blocked off Tuesday night due to a gasoline spill at Doue Oil Company. Jacks holding up a semi-trailer being used for storage of contaminated gasoline collapsed puncturing a hole in the trailer releasing about 400 to 500 gallons of contaminated gasoline on the ground. Residents around the spill were evacuated, including those at Friendship Village.

Source: http://www.morningsun.net/stories/120606/local_20061206007.s.html

6. *December 06, Visalia Times-Delta (CA)* — **Chemical fumes close clinic.** A downtown Visalia, CA, medical building was shut down Tuesday, December 5, because of potentially deadly fumes that originated in the sewer system. Officials believe the chemical benzene "or something like it" was responsible, fire Battalion Chief Danny Wristen said. No injuries were reported at the Kaweah Delta Multiservice Center. The fire department's hazardous materials team was called after building employees noticed a strong "chemical" smell Tuesday morning. Investigators said the fumes rose from the sewer system through a vent-pipe leading to the center's roof, then were sucked into the building's heating system. The building remained closed Tuesday and was to be aired out overnight.

Source: <http://www.visaliatimesdelta.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061206/NEWS01/612060340/1002>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

7. *December 05, U.S. Department of Defense* — **Federal agencies collaborating on security clearance process.** The Department of State and the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) have combined resources to process security clearances for overseas Department of Defense

(DoD) installations. The joint effort will make the clearance process more efficient and cost effective, officials said. Effective Wednesday, December 6, the Department of State will activate an overseas investigative program with a cadre of special investigators working from U.S. embassies and consulates. The investigators will conduct OPM background investigations on DoD facilities. Officials have been working to make security clearance investigations timelier, as mandated by the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004. Federal agencies are faced with the challenges of hiring both qualified and trustworthy personnel to work in positions that impact national security. The nation's military also faces obstacles in ensuring that all military personnel, civil servants and contractors have current security clearances.

Source: <http://www.defenselink.mil/news/NewsArticle.aspx?ID=2309>

8. *December 04, Government Computer News* — **Army issues draft RFP for support services.** The Army late last week released the draft request for proposals (RFP) for its almost \$1 billion Program Management Support Services–2 contract. Vendors have until Friday, December 15, to comment on the draft statement of objectives for PMSS–2. Kevin Carroll, head of the Army's Program Executive Office, Enterprise Information Systems, said that his office plans to release the final RFP in January and make awards in the April–to–June time frame.

Source: http://www.gcn.com/online/vol1_no1/42705–1.html

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Banking and Finance Sector

9. *December 06, Star (South Africa)* — **International crime syndicates are using local waiters to defraud banks.** According to the South African Banking Risk Information Center, the banking industry has been hard hit by card skimmers who steal unsuspecting people's credit card details by swiping them through a skimming device, downloading the data to a laptop, and selling it to international crime syndicates in Europe, who transfer the data to counterfeit or altered cards. "Most of this information is passed on to syndicate members in Spain or other parts of Europe. It is very difficult to get to them there. The layer of the syndicate which we can break is only the second rung, which is the person the waiter gives the skimming device to," said Senior Superintendent JA Van Wyk. From the beginning of next year, four major banks — Nedbank, Standard Bank, FNB and Absa — will introduce a type of chip card which they hope will curb credit card fraud. The card is different than the current credit card in that the information is stored on a chip on the front of the card, which cannot be swiped.

Source: http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=15&art_id=v n20061206004855314C604315

10. *December 06, St. Louis Post–Dispatch* — **Bank data stolen out of executive's vehicle.** On November 16, a bound, blue book which contained paper reports with the names and account numbers of 1,800 customers who had opened Premier Bank accounts in October, was stolen from an executive's truck. Bank executives said Tuesday, December 5, they have written letters to the customers, advising them to monitor those accounts for the next 12 to 24 months. The bank says the stolen papers contained no information that would put any accounts in jeopardy. And there have been no reports of thefts. But the missing names and account numbers were enough to require notifying customers and the FBI, said Mike Anderson, bank president and

chief operating officer. Premier's headquarters is in Jefferson City, MO. The thief also stole a \$250,000 non-negotiable bank certificate, \$400 in cash and a black leather jacket valued at \$250, according to St. Louis police. Another vehicle was stolen from outside the hotel that night. Mike Anderson, bank president and chief operating officer, said the bank has flagged all 1,800 accounts and is monitoring them. Without Social Security numbers or other personal information, Anderson said, he doubts a thief could get into the accounts.

Source: <http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/stories.nsf/stlouiscitycounty/story/FA09E9ED4578DAD48625723C001830CF?OpenDocument>

11. *December 06, Agence France–Press* — **Bogus anti-spyware makers ahead of law in South Korea.** Bogus anti-spyware makers are a growing source of public concern in IT powerhouse South Korea, a top online security firm has said. Taking advantage of legal loopholes, many fraudulent anti-spyware makers extorted money from users by lying that they had found intrusive programs on users' computers, AhnLab said Wednesday, December 6. "Through pop-up windows, they claim malwares such as viruses, worms or Trojans were scanned on your computer and ask for money to treat those malwares," AhnLab spokesperson Park Keun-Woo said. "In many cases, however, those scanned programs are simply non-existent or cookies that are not really harmful for your computer and can be easily erased," he said. Many of those deceptive anti-spyware makers hire part-time workers to spread their bogus programs. Those programs are placed on the Internet in bundles with free video clips or cartoons in blogs and Internet cafes. Even renowned Internet portal services did not bother to check the authenticity of such anti-spyware programs advertised on their own portal sites, Park said.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20061206/tc_afp/skoreainterneter ime

12. *December 06, Associated Press* — **Laptop with data on 1,000 West Virginia guardsmen stolen.** A laptop containing personal information on about 1,000 members of a West Virginia Air National Guard unit has been stolen. Members of the Charleston-based 130th Airlift Wing were sent letters notifying them of the theft. The guardsmen also were warned to be alert for identity theft, although there is no indication that the information has been accessed, said Lt. Col. Mike Cadle, a Guard spokesperson. Cadle said the laptop was stolen from a military member in November during an out-of-state trip to a training school. He said he could not provide the location or any other details because it could hinder the investigation. The Air Force Office of Special Investigations and police are investigating the theft.

Source: <http://www.airforcetimes.com/story.php?f=1-292925-2405077.ph p>

13. *December 05, Websense Security Labs* — **Multiple phishing alerts: Community America Credit Union, First South Bank, Mazuma Credit Union.** Websense Security Labs has received reports of a phishing attack that target bank customers. For each of the phishing attacks below, the e-mail provides a link to a phishing site that attempts to collect personal and account information.

Community America Credit Union (Kansas): Users receive a spoofed e-mail message, which claims that they need to confirm their e-mail address.

First South Bank (North Carolina): Users receive a spoofed email message which claims that the "Challenge Question validation" has not been completed. The e-mail claims that the procedure is needed to identify a user as the legitimate owner of the account.

Mazuma Credit Union (Missouri): Users receive a spoofed e-mail message which claims that if users take part in a survey, \$50 will be credited to their account.

Screenshots:

<http://www.websensesecuritylabs.com/alerts/alert.php?AlertID=712>

<http://www.websense.com/securitylabs/alerts/alert.php?AlertID=711>

<http://www.websense.com/securitylabs/alerts/alert.php?AlertID=710>

Source: <http://www.websensesecuritylabs.com>

14. *December 05, Newsday* — Personal info on 21,000 students disappears from college.

Someone made off with a printout of personal information about Nassau Community College's entire student body, more than 21,000 students. Reginald Tuggle, college spokesperson, said the list went missing Tuesday, November 28. An administrative assistant in the college's Student Activities Office, who was authorized to use the list, was cross checking the names of individuals involved in various student activities against the master list of students registered at the college. The assistant left her desk for about 10 minutes. When she returned, the list was gone. The list contained students' names, addresses, Social Security Numbers, and phone numbers, said Sgt. Anthony Repalone, a Nassau County Police spokesperson. He said the college informed the police November 28 about the missing computer list. The college also notified the Long Island offices of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Department of Homeland Security.

Source: http://www.newsday.com/news/local/longisland/ny-licoll1205_0.7551763.story?track=rss

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

15. *December 06, Department of Transportation* — FRA proposes higher fines for violations of federal rail safety regulations. The civil penalty guideline amounts assessed against railroads for violating numerous federal rail safety regulations would be substantially increased under a proposal announced on Wednesday, December 6, by Federal Railroad Administrator (FRA) Joseph H. Boardman. Boardman explained that FRA evaluated each of the more than 2,000 provisions of the federal rail safety regulations using a five-point severity scale. The measure takes into consideration the likelihood that a rail accident or graver consequences will occur as a result of failing to comply with a particular section of the regulations. Under the proposal, most fines would increase, but in some instances the amounts would remain unchanged or be reduced where data and experience have shown that a failure to comply with a specific regulatory provision poses less of a safety risk. The proposal also supports the National Rail Safety Action Plan, a broad effort to focus on reducing the highest risk causes of train accidents, Boardman said.

Public comments will be accepted until January 4, 2007, and may be submitted electronically at <http://dms.dot.gov> using docket no. FRA-2006-25274.

A copy of the proposal also can be found at <http://www.fra.dot.gov>.

Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/fra2006.htm>

16. *December 06, Southern Illinoisan* — Trains carry hazardous materials through region. On any given day, train cars carrying such hazardous materials as sulfuric acid and liquefied anhydrous ammonia are rumbling through Southern Illinois. The two chemicals are in the upper tier of the Top 125 hazardous commodity movements by tank car through Illinois, according to

the “2005 Annual Report on Accidents/Incidents Involving Hazardous Materials on Railroads in Illinois” compiled by the Illinois Commerce Commission. Also topping the list are chlorine, petroleum gases, propane and inhibited vinyl chloride. Although train derailments garner much attention on the rare occasions they occur, chemicals are more frequently released from trains due to leaks and human error than actual derailments. There were 57 instances of hazardous material leaks in 2005 due to circumstances other than derailment. These leaks had various causes, including fuel line cracks, overfilled tanks and human error. Railroads are responsible for keeping track of where hazardous materials are traveling on a given day, said Steve Kulm, director of public affairs for the Federal Railroad Administration. The Rail Safety program administered through the Illinois Commerce Commission is responsible for checking the track-worthiness of all vessels carrying hazardous materials through the state of Illinois, said Michael Stead, Rail Safety program administrator.

Source: http://www.southernillinoisan.com/articles/2006/12/06/afternoon_evening/doc4575856d12712387506731.txt

17. *December 06, International Civil Aviation Organization (Greece)* — **Second part of government–industry global aviation safety roadmap presented to ICAO.** The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) took delivery of the second and final part of a Global Aviation Safety Roadmap developed by members of the air transport industry, in consultation with ICAO safety specialists, and designed to establish one level of aviation safety worldwide. This marks the first time that governments and industry have jointly developed a unified and coordinated approach to reducing accident rates, particularly in developing regions of the world, in accordance with ICAO’s Global Aviation Safety Plan. The Roadmap was produced by the Industry Safety Strategy Group (ISSG) composed of the International Air Transport Association, Airbus, Boeing, Airports Council International, the Civil Air Navigation Services Organization, the Flight Safety Foundation, and the International Federation of Air Line Pilots Associations. All ISSG members are committed to assisting in the implementation of the Roadmap and to updating the document as required. The document sets one or more short-term and medium-term objectives for each focus area over the next ten years.

Source: http://www.traveldailynews.com/new.asp?newid=34139&subcategory_id=53

18. *December 06, National Geographic News* — **New icing warning system for U.S. airplanes.** Beginning Wednesday, December 6, pilots will have more reliable information about the threat of dangerous icing conditions as they fly across the continental U.S. The information could save the airline industry more than \$20 million a year in aircraft damage and fuel by guiding pilots away from areas in the atmosphere where icing can take place, according the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, CO. The new data may also save uncounted lives. A study by the National Transportation Safety Board estimates that 819 people died from icing-related accidents between 1982 and 2000. The new technology is part of an upgrade to a system called the Current Icing Product, which is available to weather forecasters, air traffic controllers, and, for the first time, pilots. The project combines surface observations, weather models, satellite and radar data, and pilot reports to create maps and plots of icing conditions that are posted online. The maps and plots are updated hourly and can be selected for altitudes up to 29,000 feet according to the research center. The reports can be streamed directly into the cockpit.

Source: <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2006/12/061206-airplanes-ice.html>

19. *December 06, Washington Post* — **Suspicious pipe temporarily closes Washington, DC, beltway exit.** Fairfax County, VA, police reopened the Route 123 access ramps to the Capital Beltway Wednesday morning, December 6, after closing them for about an hour to investigate a suspicious pipe on the roadway, police said. Authorities determined the 12-inch PVC pipe was not a threat after a bomb-detecting robot investigated it. "Whatever it was, it was inert," said Ryan Hall, spokesperson for the Virginia Department of Transportation. The Beltway's Outer Loop remained open during the investigation, but drivers were not allowed to exit onto Route 123, compounding traffic woes in the chronically congested area.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/12/06/AR2006120600675.html>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

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Agriculture Sector

20. *December 05, KQTV (MO)* — **Missouri to ready for agro-terrorism.** Officials in Missouri are taking steps to prevent an agro-terrorism attack in their state by making sure everyone knows what to do if and when an agricultural emergency occurs. On Tuesday, December 5, there was an Agro-Terrorism Awareness and Planning meeting in Buchanan County. The next meeting will educate farmers about their roles in case of an outbreak. Plans and prevention in case of an intentional or accidental outbreak of animal borne diseases in the area is on the agenda. Diseases such as mad cow and SARS are among major concerns.

Source: <http://www.kq2.com/news/default.asp?mode=shownews&id=4352>

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Food Sector

21. *December 06, New York Times* — **New Jersey distribution site is scrutinized as more E. coli cases are reported.** The investigation into an outbreak of food poisoning that has sickened 65 people in three states widened Tuesday, December 5, as four additional cases of E. coli infection were reported in Pennsylvania as well as two more in New Jersey. As the search continued for what was responsible for the largest E. coli outbreak in the region in several years, federal and state health investigators said they were looking into a distribution center in Burlington Township, NJ, that delivers food to more than 1,100 restaurants, including Taco Bell and other fast food outlets in the Northeast. In Pennsylvania, three of the additional cases were linked to Taco Bell restaurants in Montgomery County, a suburb of Philadelphia. Late yesterday, Taco Bell announced that it had voluntarily closed nine restaurants in Montgomery County, and that they would reopen when health officials approved. But state health officials in the region insisted that the outbreak had been contained and that the most recent cases represented late notifications of the illness, not new incidences. The number of cases of

infection could continue to rise as people come forward to report their illness.

Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2006/12/06/nyregion/06coli.html?_r=1&ref=nyregion&oref=slogin

22. *December 05, U.S. Food and Drug Administration* — **Cleugh's Frozen Foods Inc. recalls frozen strawberries sold to Jamba Juice.** Cleugh's Frozen Foods Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of SunOpta Inc., Tuesday, December 5, announced a voluntary recall of frozen strawberries sold exclusively to Jamba Juice for use in strawberry smoothies sold in stores in Arizona, Nevada and Southern California between the period November 25, 2006, and December 1, 2006, because of a concern that they may have been contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes*. The strawberry contamination was identified by Cleugh's who then notified Jamba Juice. The recalled products have been removed from the Jamba Juice stores in the affected areas and are no longer being used to make smoothies. To date no suspected illnesses have been reported.

Source: http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/sunopta12_06.html

23. *December 05, USAgNet* — **Pilgrim's Pride & Gold Kist officially announce merger.** Pilgrim's Pride Corporation and Gold Kist Inc. announced Monday, December 4, that they have agreed to a merger. Together, Pilgrim's Pride and Gold Kist will create the world's leading chicken company in terms of production and the third-largest U.S. meat protein company by revenues. "This is a momentous day for both companies and for the chicken industry," Lonnie "Bo" Pilgrim, chairman of Pilgrim's Pride, said in a joint news release from the two companies. He went on to say, "We believe the combination of these two great companies will result in substantial value creation for our respective stockholders, employees, business partners and other constituencies."

Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.php?Id=2530&yr=2006>

24. *December 04, Reuters* — **USDA disputes claim that U.S. chicken unsafe.** Eighty-three percent of chicken sold in U.S. grocery stores may contain bacteria that cause foodborne illnesses, a consumer group said on Monday, December 4. Consumer Reports said tests on 525 chickens — including samples from leading brands Perdue, Pilgrim's Pride Inc. and Tyson Foods Inc. — showed most of the poultry had campylobacter or salmonella, two of the leading causes of food-borne diseases. A test conducted in 2003 showed 49 percent of the birds had at least one of the bacteria. A spokesperson with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food Safety and Inspection Service said the study was riddled with flaws such as a small sample size and uncertainty over the report's methodology. Steven Cohen, spokesperson for the agency, said the report did not go back to all the stores used in the 2003 report. He said it also failed to mention what type of salmonella was found, noting that one common strain, *Salmonella Kentucky*, doesn't make people ill. "There is virtually nothing or any conclusion that anyone could draw from 500 samples," said Cohen. "They're passing along junk science and calling it an investigation."

Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory?id=2700267>

25. *December 01, U.S. Food and Drug Administration* — **Farmer's Best International issues recall of cantaloupes because of possible health risk.** Farmer's Best International on behalf of Agroproductos San Rafael is announcing the recall of cantaloupes under the Lucia label brand because they have the potential to be contaminated with *Salmonella*, although no

illnesses have been reported to date. Approximately three hundred and thirty six (336) cartons of cantaloupes were distributed in New York City and Boston between November 1 and November 4, 2006.

Source: http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/farmersbest12_01.html

26. *December 01, Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (MN)* — **Second Salmonella outbreak linked to tomatoes.** Federal officials are investigating a second Salmonella outbreak linked to restaurant tomatoes that occurred over the summer and early fall, sickening 106 people in 19 states. The outbreak, first reported November 28, involves restaurant tomatoes contaminated with Salmonella enterica serotype Newport. The S Newport outbreak marks the second Salmonella outbreak in tomatoes this fall. In early November, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) confirmed that an outbreak of Salmonella enterica serotype Typhimurium, which sickened 183 Americans in 21 states, plus two Canadians, was linked to restaurant tomatoes. Christine Olson, MD, MPH, an epidemiology intelligence service officer with the enteric diseases epidemiology branch of the CDC, told CIDRAP News that the outbreak began in June and appears to have ended in October.

Source: <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/fs/food-disease/news/dec106salmonella.html>

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Water Sector

27. *December 06, Los Angeles Times* — **Lower Owens River awaits rush of High Sierra water.** Hundreds of spectators led by Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa gathered Wednesday, December 6, to watch the 62-mile-long Lower Owens River ripple anew with its first surge of High Sierra water in nearly a century. The largest river habitat restoration effort ever attempted in the West will launch with Villaraigosa's push of a button, opening a steel gate at a dam that has been diverting the Lower Owens' water into the Los Angeles Aqueduct since 1913. It will take at least 18 days for it to traverse the vast Owens Valley floodplain and reach storage ponds on the northern edge of the dry Owens Lake. There, four 600-horsepower pumps will suck the water up and put it back into the aqueduct for transport to Los Angeles, about 250 miles to the south. The \$39-million project is not expected to result in an increase of water rates in Los Angeles. After groundwater pumping by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power between 1970 and 1990 destroyed habitat in the Owens Valley, the department agreed in 1991 to restore the Lower Owens River to compensate for the damage.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-120606owens.0.1303597.story?coll=la-home-headlines>

28. *December 06, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency* — **EPA orders federal contractor, U.S. Navy to reduce drinking water chemical levels at El Centro Naval Air Facility.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently ordered KBR Inc. and the U.S. Department of the Navy to reduce the levels of total trihalomethanes — byproducts of water disinfection — from drinking water available at the Naval Air Facility El Centro, CA. The Naval Air Facility provides drinking water for approximately 4,000 persons. The water plant is operated by KBR Inc., a federal government contractor. Byproducts such as trihalomethanes are formed when disinfectants used in water treatment plants react with bromide and/or natural organic matter

such as decaying vegetation present in source water. After years of consumption, trihalomethanes may cause liver, kidney or central nervous system problems and may increase the risk of cancer. Between 2004 and 2006, the drinking water at the Naval Air Facility in El Centro averaged 116 parts-per-billion of total trihalomethanes, violating federal drinking water standards of 80 parts-per-billion. By January 31, the U.S. Department of the Navy must provide a written compliance plan describing how it will meet EPA water regulations. By December 31, 2007, the Navy must reduce its total trihalomethane levels to below federal standards.

Source: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/8207a5fa1f15abe08525723b0077b9db?OpenDocument>

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Public Health Sector

29. *December 06, Reuters* — **When to use bird flu vaccine a 'tricky issue': WHO.** Health experts say vaccines work well when they match the circulating strain of flu. Marie-Paule Kieny, head of the World Health Organization's (WHO) Initiative for Vaccine Research, said the WHO did not yet have an official position on pre-pandemic vaccination, which she called a "tricky issue." She went on, "We need to take into consideration that immunizing part of your population, especially groups on the front line to combat the pandemic, might be a good benefit." "But you have to weigh that against the risk of immunizing against a pandemic that is not there," she said, referring to the 1976 swine flu scare in the United States. That year, millions of Americans were vaccinated against swine flu after an outbreak at a U.S. Army base triggered fears of a wider pandemic. It never occurred and the vaccine was blamed for a rise in cases of a rare neurological illness.

Source: http://health.yahoo.com/news/reuters/whentousebirdfluvaccineatrickyissue:_ylt=AtVghEVtj.pxqSeUNqS5Jviz5xcB

30. *December 05, Center for Infectious Disease Research & Policy (MN)* — **Saudi man has third vCJD case found in U.S.** A third case of variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD) has been reported in a U.S. resident, but health officials believe he contracted the disease in Saudi Arabia when he was a child. The patient is a young man who has lived in the United States since 2005 but was born and raised in Saudi Arabia, according to a November 29 report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The man occasionally stayed in the United States for up to three months at a time since 2001 and made a shorter visit in 1989. The brain-wasting disease is believed to be caused by eating meat products from cattle infected with bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or mad cow disease. The diagnosis was confirmed in late November by the Clinical Prion Research Team at the University of California San Francisco Memory and Aging Center, the CDC said. Researchers based their findings on study of the man's adenoid and brain biopsy tissues.

CDC November 29 report: http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/vcjd/other/vCJD_112906.htm

Source: http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/other/bse/news/dec0_506cjd.html

31. *December 05, Reuters* — **Minnesota deemed healthiest state in U.S., Louisiana worst.** Minnesota was deemed the healthiest U.S. state for the fourth year in a row, while Louisiana slumped into last place as the least healthy in annual state-by-state rankings released by on

Tuesday, December 5. Vermont placed second as it did in 2005 with New Hampshire, Hawaii and Connecticut rounding out the five healthiest states in the report by the United Health Foundation, a nonprofit group formed by health care company United Health Group. They were followed in order by Utah, Massachusetts, North Dakota, Maine and Wisconsin. Louisiana dropped to 50th from 49th last year. The others in the bottom 10 included last year's cellar-dweller Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee, Arkansas, Alabama, Oklahoma, West Virginia, Georgia and Florida. The report weighed a series of factors in determining rankings, such as prevalence of obesity, smoking, infectious disease, cardiovascular deaths, infant mortality, child poverty, immunization rates, workplace deaths and auto deaths.

Report: [http://www.unitedhealthfoundation.org/ahr2006/media2006/shrm edit/2006ahr.pdf](http://www.unitedhealthfoundation.org/ahr2006/media2006/shrm%20edit/2006ahr.pdf)

Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/N05305709.htm>

32. *December 05, LiveScience* — **Llamas enlisted to thwart biological weapons.** If terrorists ever unleashed a biological weapon, unusual molecules normally found in the blood of llamas could quickly help warn of the attack. Researchers at the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory and their colleagues experimented with llama antibodies. Scientists now regularly develop antibodies for use in medicines against cancers and other diseases or in sensors to warn of dangerous microbes and chemicals. Unfortunately, the antibodies currently used irreversibly break down at high temperatures, often limiting extended use in the field. Biochemist Ellen Goldman at the Naval Research Laboratory with virologist Andrew Hayhurst at the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research and their colleagues investigated llama antibodies. Llama, camel and shark antibodies are more durable, capable of withstanding temperatures of almost 200 degrees Fahrenheit. The researchers generated more than a billion kinds of antibody binding regions in the laboratory based on genes taken from small blood samples from llamas. After testing their antibodies against various biological threats, the researchers found they could within days successfully identify antibodies targeting cholera toxin, a smallpox virus surrogate and ricin, among other known menaces. The findings are scheduled to be detailed in the Thursday, December 14, issue of the journal *Analytical Chemistry*.

Source: http://www.livescience.com/technology/061205_llama_blood.html

33. *December 04, Medical News Today* — **Evolution of influenza A virus.** An understanding of the evolutionary dynamics of the influenza virus determines scientists' ability to survey and control the virus. In a new study, published online in the open-access journal *PLoS Pathogens*, Dr. Eddie C. Holmes of the Department of Biology at Pennsylvania State University and colleagues at the National Institutes of Health, the Wordsworth Center and the Institute for Genomic Research used genomic analysis to investigate the evolutionary properties of the H3N2 subtype of human influenza A virus. The authors, in the first population-based study of its kind, collected a sample group of 413 complete influenza genomes from across New York State. Comparative analysis of the samples revealed genetically distinct viral strains circulate across the state within any one season and occasionally exchange genes through reassortment. These results indicate that adaptive evolution occurs only sporadically in influenza virus, and that influenza virus diversity and evolution is strongly affected by chance events, such as reassortment between strains coinfecting a host or the introduction of a particular variant from elsewhere.

Study: <http://pathogens.plosjournals.org/perlserv/?request=get-document&doi=10.1371%2Fjournal.ppat.0020125>

Source: <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/medicalnews.php?newsid=57917>

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Government Sector

Nothing to report.

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Emergency Services Sector

- 34. *December 06, Government Accountability Office* — GAO-07-252T: Hurricanes Katrina and Rita Disaster Relief: Continued Findings of Fraud, Waste, and Abuse (Testimony).** Hurricanes Katrina and Rita destroyed homes and displaced millions of individuals. While the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) continues to respond to this disaster, the Government Accountability Office's (GAO) previous work identified significant control weaknesses — specifically in FEMA's Individuals and Households Program (IHP) and in the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) purchase card program — resulting in significant fraud, waste, and abuse. Testimony on Wednesday, December 6, will address whether FEMA provided improper and potentially fraudulent (1) rental assistance payments to registrants at the same time it was providing free housing via trailers and apartments; (2) duplicate assistance payments to individuals who claimed damages to the same property for both hurricanes Katrina and Rita; and (3) IHP payments to non-U.S. residents who did not qualify for IHP. This testimony will also discuss (1) the importance of fraud identification and prevention, and (2) the results of GAO's investigation into property FEMA bought using DHS purchase cards. Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07252thigh.pdf>
Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-252T>
- 35. *December 05, Government Technology* — State-of-the-art emergency management headquarters opens in Brooklyn.** New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg and Office of Emergency Management (OEM) Commissioner Joseph F. Bruno Tuesday, December 5, officially opened the new OEM Headquarters and Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Downtown Brooklyn. The \$50 million facility serves as the central point of coordination for major emergencies and special events, as well as the day-to-day workspace for OEM planning and response personnel. Staffed 24-hours a day, the 65,000-square-foot building contains a 130-agency EOC, Watch Command, general office space, and training and conference rooms. It is supported by state-of-the-art audiovisual and information technology systems and full back-up generation. The OEM EOC will also be able to leverage the future benefits of the Citywide Public Safety Wireless Network, which will provide real-time links to city, state and federal agencies, bolster situational awareness, and foster resource coordination in case of a large scale disaster.
Source: <http://www.govtech.net/news/news.php?id=102716>
- 36. *December 05, Government Technology* — NOAA tide stations upgraded to better detect tsunamis.** The National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) upgraded 33 tide stations in an effort to detect tsunamis quicker as part of the National Water Level Observation Network. Network tide stations normally equipped to record tidal data once every hour can now

collect tidal data every six minutes. The upgraded tide gauges also collect one minute averaged tide data that are available to the NOAA Pacific Tsunami Warning Center and the West Coast/Alaska Tsunami Warning Center. This enhances the tsunami detection and confirmation capability of the centers, allowing forecasters to view real-time data of any station in the network.

Source: http://www.govtech.net/magazine/channel_story.php/102703

37. *December 04, Richmond Times–Dispatch (VA)* — Virginia's emergency system praised.

Virginia is leading the way for governments to make sure they can talk to one another in a disaster. The state's plan, born of the confusion that followed the terrorist attack on the Pentagon five years ago, is touted as a model for the country by the National Governors Association in a study released recently. The governors association says fragmented planning hinders creation of emergency communications systems that talk to one another. Other obstacles are outdated equipment, inadequate funding to replace it, poor coordination, and the failure to establish a radio spectrum dedicated to public safety. Virginia created one statewide office with many regional partners to make sure federal homeland security money was well spent on communications equipment that works across agency and jurisdictional boundaries. Now, local and state agencies — including law enforcement, firefighters, and rescue workers — help make decisions through a statewide executive committee and advisory council. The state also has a plan to establish strategic goals for compatible communication systems.

Study: <http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/0903INTEROP.pdf>

Source: http://www.timesdispatch.com/servlet/Satellite?pagename=RTD%2FMSGArticle%2FRTD_BasicArticle&c=MGArticle&cid=1149192004718&path=!news&s=1045855934842

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

38. *December 06, New York Times* — Spam doubles, finding new ways to deliver itself. Spam is back — in e-mail in-boxes and on everyone's minds. In the last six months, the problem has gotten measurably worse. Worldwide spam volumes have doubled from last year, according to IronPort Systems, a spam-filtering firm, and unsolicited junk mail now accounts for more than nine of every 10 e-mail messages sent over the Internet. Much of that flood is made up of a nettlesome new breed of junk e-mail called image spam, in which the words of the advertisement are part of a picture, often fooling traditional spam detectors that look for telltale phrases. Image spam increased fourfold from last year and now represents 25 percent to 45 percent of all junk e-mail, depending on the day, IronPort says. Antispam firms spotted the skyrocketing amount of image spam this summer. The filtering companies adopted an approach called optical character recognition, which scans the images in an e-mail and tries to recognize any letters or words. Spammers responded in turn by littering their images with speckles, polka dots and background bouquets of color, which mean nothing to human eyes but trip up the computer scanners.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2006/12/06/technology/06spam.html?ei=5088partner=rssnyt&en=d2c6bcfd3354cbaf&ex=1323061200&adxnnl=1&exprod=cnetAd&adxnnlx=1165424400-Q4unOr2Gh7hwMtJNSc5IEA>

39. *December 06, Information Week* — **Adobe fixes Reader flaw, warns of new bug in download tool.** Adobe Systems updated its free Reader application Tuesday, December 5, to fix a critical flaw disclosed last week, but then warned users of its Download Manager that attackers could hijack a Mac or Windows PC by exploiting a bug in that utility. Adobe Reader 8.0 for Windows patched a vulnerability in the AcroPDF ActiveX control used to display PDF documents within Microsoft's Internet Explorer browser. Last week, Adobe said that the Windows versions of Reader 7.0 through 7.0.8 could be exploited to compromise PCs. "Adobe Reader 7.0 through 7.0.8 users should upgrade to Reader 8," Adobe said in a Tuesday bulletin. Adobe Acrobat versions 7.0 through 7.0.8, however, remain vulnerable to attack. Adobe Security Bulletin: <http://www.adobe.com/support/security/bulletins/apsb06-20.html>
Source: <http://www.informationweek.com/showArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=DWSUBLCKKRXN2QSNLPCXHSCJUNN2JVN?articleID=196601932>
40. *December 05, eWeek* — **Microsoft issues Word zero-day attack alert.** Microsoft on Tuesday, December 5, warned that an unpatched vulnerability in its Word software program is being used in targeted, zero-day attacks. A security advisory from the company said the flaw can be exploited if a user simply opens a rigged Word document. Affected software versions include Microsoft Word 2000, Microsoft Word 2002, Microsoft Office Word 2003, Microsoft Word Viewer 2003, Microsoft Word 2004 for Mac and Microsoft Word 2004 v. X for Mac. The Microsoft Works 2004, 2005 and 2006 suites are also affected because they include Microsoft Word. There are no pre-patch workarounds available. Microsoft Security Advisory: <http://www.microsoft.com/technet/security/advisory/929433.mspx>
Source: <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,1895,2068786,00.asp>
41. *December 05, CNET News* — **New site offers zero-day tracker.** eEye Digital Security has launched a Website that tracks publicly released security bugs that don't have an official patch, also known as zero-day flaws. The new eEye Zero-Day Tracker Website on Tuesday, December 5, listed seven zero-day vulnerabilities, six of which affect Microsoft software and one related to Adobe Systems' Acrobat. For each of the problems, eEye suggests steps people can take to protect against exploitation of the flaws. Security monitoring companies Secunia and the French Security Incident Response Team also track unpatched flaws. However, these companies don't offer a simple overview of all zero-days. Zero-Day Tracker Website: <http://research.eeye.com/html/alerts/zeroday/index.html>
Source: http://news.com.com/New+site+offers+zero-day+tracker/2100-1002_3-6141157.html

Internet Alert Dashboard

Current Port Attacks	
Top 10 Target Ports	4662 (eDonkey2000), 6881 (bittorrent), 1026 (win-rpc), 4672 (eMule), 1027 (icq), 1028 (---), 36890 (---), 25 (smtp), 57714 (---), 445 (microsoft-ds) Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html ; Internet Storm Center
To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov .	

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Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

42. *December 06, Associated Press* — British find traces of polonium-210 at soccer stadium.

Traces of the radioactive isotope polonium-210 have been detected at a London stadium that hosted a soccer match attended by a key figure in the probe of the fatal radiation poisoning of a former Russian spy, a British official said Wednesday, December 6. The key figure, Andrei Lugovoi, is hospitalized in Moscow and being tested for possible polonium contamination. Lugovoi, who is also a former Russian agent, attended a soccer match at Emirates Stadium on November 1 after meeting Alexander Litvinenko who fell ill that day and died November 23 in London. Toxicologists found polonium-210 in his body. The radiation found at the soccer stadium was "barely detectable" and posed no public health risk, said Katherine Lewis, spokesperson for the Health Protection Agency.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0.2933.234737.00.html>

43. *December 06, KSTP (MN)* — Officials investigating explosives in mailboxes. Police in St. Croix Falls, WI, have called in a federal postal inspector and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms to look into eight cases of small explosives found in residents' mailboxes along a four-mile stretch of River Road in Wisconsin's Polk County. Investigators initially thought the explosives were dynamite, but it turns out that they were commercial-grade fireworks, illegal in Wisconsin. Polk County Sheriff Tim Moore said that the federal government does not like when explosive devices are placed in U.S. Postal Service mailboxes. All Post Offices in Polk County are on alert. Explosive experts say that the explosives are powerful and could do serious damage if detonated, but it's unclear if there was any intent to harm residents. There were no triggers on the mailboxes, just evidence of burned out fuses. Anyone who sees any of these explosives is urged not to touch them and to alert authorities immediately.

Source: <http://www.kstp.com/article/stories/S20445.html?cat=1>

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General Sector

Nothing to report.

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